

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

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USIA-15 SAM-01 SAB-01 IO-14 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /153 W

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R 141301Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7760

USINT BAGHDAD

DIA WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USUN NEW YORK 687

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IR, IZ

SUBJ: IRAN-IRAQ BORDER INCIDENTS MAR TALKS IN ISTANBUL

REF: BAGHDAD 0487

1. ON AUGUST 12, SAME DAY IRAQ-IRAN TALKS BEGAN IN ISTANBUL, THREE MEN SAID TO BE IRAQI MILITIA MEN ARMED WITH MACHINE GUNS CROSSED THE BORDER NEAR SOSAGERD, NORTHWEST OF AHWAZ. GENDARMES INTERCEPTED THEM AND KILLED ONE MAN. OTHERS ESCAPED.

2. PRESS REPORTED AUGUST 14 TAHT TWO IRANIAN CHILDREN HAD BEEN KILLED IN IRAQI BOMBING ATTACKS ON IRANIAN SIDE OF BORDER AUGUST 4 AND 8. ONE OF CHILDREN KILLED WAS REPORTED ELSEWHERE TO BE IRAQI KURDISH REFUGEE.

3. RUMORS OF IRAQI OVERFLIGHT AND OTHER GROUND INCURSIONS CIRCULATING IN TEHRAN APPEAR TO BE UNTRUE, AND CONSULATE TABRIZ

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REPORTS NO MILITARY ALERT HAS BEEN CALLED ALONG BORDER AS FAR

SOUTH AS KERMANSHAH PROVINCE. HOWEVER, GENDARMERIE PERSONNEL ON BORDER WHO EARLIER HAD BEEN ORDERED NOT TO RETURN SPORADIC IRAQI FIRE WHICH HAS OCCURRED FOR SEVERAL WEEKS HAVE RECENTLY BEEN AUTHORIZED TO RETURN FIRE AND SHOOT TO KILL INSTEAD OF FIRING WARNING SHOTS WHEN BORDER RAIDS OCCUR.

4. EDITORIAL COMMENT QUESTIONS IRAQ'S SINCERITY OF PURPOSE IN ISTANBUL TALKS, SAYING IRAQIS OFTEN ENGAGE IN PROVOCATIVE ACTS WHILE EXPRESSING DESIRE TO IMPROVE RELATIONS.

5. COMMENT: GOI IS REACTING CALMLY TO THESE BORDER PROVOCATIONS, BUT DIRECTOR GENERAL FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCES HAVE TOLD US THEY MAKE IT VERY DIFFICULT TO EXPECT MUCH FROM PRELIMINARY TALKS IN ISTANBUL.
HELMS

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